UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/534
23 October 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-first session
Agenda item 12

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

United Nations Population Award

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on the United Nations Population Award, established by the Assembly in its resolution 36/201 of 17 December 1981. The report, which covers 1996, was prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1982/112 of 28 April 1982.

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ANNEX

Report on the United Nations Population Award, 1996

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 17 December 1981, the General Assembly adopted resolution 36/201, on the establishment of the United Nations Population Award. The Award is presented annually to an individual or individuals, to an institution or institutions or to any combination thereof for the most outstanding contribution to increasing the awareness of population questions or to their solutions.

2. The laureate(s) is selected by the Committee for the United Nations Population Award, which is composed of representatives of 10 States Members of the United Nations elected by the Economic and Social Council for a period of three years.

3. In 1994 the Economic and Social Council elected the following countries to serve on the Committee for the three-year period beginning in January 1995: Belarus, Burundi, Cameroon, El Salvador, Guatemala, India, Japan, Netherlands, Philippines and Zaire. The Secretary-General and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund serve as ex officio members. The Executive Director acts as the Secretary of the Committee. The Award consists of a diploma, a gold medal and a monetary prize.

4. On 5 December 1986, in decision 41/445, the General amended article 2, paragraph 1, of the annex to resolution 36/201 so that an individual and an institution may share the Award.

5. On 26 May 1987, the Economic and Social Council, in decision 1987/129, amended the rules of procedure of the Committee for the United Nations Population Award accordingly.

6. In January 1996, the Committee elected Mr. Julio Armando Martini Herrera (Guatemala) as Chairman.

7. The following five eminent individuals served as honorary members in an advisory capacity to the Committee: Mr. Dirk van der Kaa of the Netherlands, Ms. Shidzue Kato of Japan; Mr. Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado, former president of Mexico; Mrs. Victoria Sekitoleko, Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries of the Republic of Uganda; and Mrs. Robin Chandler Duke, Chairperson of Population Action International.

II. THE 1996 UNITED NATIONS POPULATION AWARD

8. A total of 24 nominations were received for the 1996 United Nations Population Award from qualified nominators. After a thorough review of the nominations, and taking into account the views of the honorary members, the Committee for the United Nations Population Award chose two laureates for 1996 - Leticia Ramos Shahani of the Philippines and Pathfinder International.

9. Leticia Ramos Shahani of the Philippines was chosen by the Committee for her more than 30 years of leadership in the field of population. Ms. Shahani is the Philippines' leading advocate of women's rights and population issues and their implications for social development, public health and environmental sustainability. She spearheaded the establishment of the Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development in 1988, at a time when no one in the Philippine Congress was talking publicly about population. Ms. Shahani is very active internationally as a member of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, the Global Committee of Parliamentarians on Population and Development and the International Green Cross. She has served in the United Nations and was Secretary-General of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, held at Nairobi in 1985.

10. Pathfinder International, a non-governmental organization, was chosen for its 38 years of sustained effort in developing and improving family planning programmes and creating awareness of population issues. Founded in 1957, Pathfinder was hard at work in the field of population, providing funds and technical assistance long before most Governments began supporting population programmes. The organization has pioneered many advances in the field of family planning - often in challenging circumstances - through a policy of investing in people and organizations committed to bringing family planning services to those most in need. It has supported more than 2,000 programmes in more than 50 countries by providing assistance in such areas as training, technical expertise, programmes for adolescents, methods for delivering services, the setting up of integrated family planning programmes and the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS. In several instances, Pathfinder, through privately raised funds, has sustained national programmes when foreign assistance funds were unavailable.

III. TRUST FUND

11. As at 1 January 1995, the Trust Fund for the United Nations Population Award totalled $730,078. Income from interest was $49,846. Expenditures in 1995, including the prizes, totalled $42,185. The closing balance as at 31 December 1995 was $737,739.